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Rightist Claims Election Victory In El Salvador

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SAN SALVADOR, May 9 — Roberto d'Aubuisson, the candidate of the far-right, said today that according to his own party's count he has won the presidential election with 52 percent of the vote.

Mr. d'Aubuisson's claim seemed to throw into question the results of the election Sunday in which the United States had accepted the victory of José Napoleón Duarte, the Christian Democratic candidate.

United States officials were confident enough of Mr. Duarte's victory on Monday to have President Reagan schedule a major address tonight to call for increased economic and military support for El Salvador.

Validity of Votes at Issue

"With 100 percent of the votes counted we have won 52 percent of the votes," said Mr. d'Aubuisson, the candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, known as Arena.

Mr. d'Aubuisson's victory claim depends on whether the Central Elections Council will invalidate ballots that he says are invalid, a step that United States officials said would be unlikely. Mr. d'Aubuisson's press conference seemed to be more of an attempt to discredit the election than a serious attempt to claim victory.

Mr. d'Aubuisson charged the Elections Council with violating the electoral law and said that unless changes were made his party's delegates would walk out of the official vote count. He also said the United States had "fixed" the elections, but said he had no "tangible" proof.

Duarte Given 54 Percent

Donald Hamilton, a United States Embassy spokesman, said that it was the embassy's understanding from various sources that Mr. Duarte had won with around 54 percent of the vote, but cautioned that it was necessary to wait for the official results from the Elections Council.

Mr. Hamilton said the sources' tallies showed Mr. d'Aubuisson had won 52 percent of the vote in only 10 of the country's 14 provinces.

Another American diplomat said Mr. d'Aubuisson could be attempting to cast doubts on the official results so that Salvadorans might feel that the elections had been stolen. The elections were billed by United States officials and the Salvadoran Government as the first in El Salvador free of fraud in more than four decades.

"It is black propaganda of the worst kind," the diplomat said. "I get the feeling that it is really serious, and that's dangerous."

United States officials have expressed concern in the past that the far right will not accept the election results and will try to undermine the new civilian Government.

Council Rejects Challenge

A military official said today that everyone should "keep their eyes open" because people outside of the military had already approached some military officers associated with the far right. The official declined to be specific, saying only that "people have been talking."

While Mr. d'Aubuisson said he would accept the official count because "it is based on law and we know it will favor us," he accused the Central Elections Council of counting votes "illegally."

The Elections Council, which suspended vote counting late Tuesday after Arena had charged irregularities, said today that it had rejected Mr. d'Aubuisson's challenge to its system and would continue the count this afternoon.

Mr. Duarte said Monday that he had won the election by 112,000 votes, and had won 54 percent of the votes cast. His running mate, Rodolfo Castillo Claremont, said today that Mr. d'Aubuisson's count was "absolutely false."

"This is in the system of theirs to lie," Mr. Castillo said. When asked what would happen if Mr. d'Aubuisson's party decided to walk out of the vote count, Mr. Castillo said, "Maj. d'Aubuisson can do whatever the hell he wants."

Separate Results Compiled

Each of the parties compiled separate results based on the reports from its poll workers, who watched as the ballots were counted. Mr. d'Aubuisson said his party's totals excluded contested ballots.

"We have arrived at our results after removing the corrupt results," he said as his supporters shouted, "Viva d'Aubuisson!"

The tone of Mr. d'Aubuisson's press conference was clearly anti-American as he read reporters a Spanish translation of a speech given by Senator Jesse Helms accusing Washington officials of favoring Mr. Duarte to protect the interests of the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department.

The speech also charged embassy officials with impugning Mr. d'Aubuisson's character by associating him with death squads.

"My argument is not that Mr. d'Aubuisson has to win," Mr. Helms said in the speech given before the Senate on Tuesday, according to Mr. d'Aubuisson. "My argument is that the Salvadoran people must have the right to choose without pressure from the Government of the United States."

U.S. Help for Duarte Charged

Mr. d'Aubuisson said that the United States had supported Mr. Duarte by giving American aid to the largest farm workers' union and supporting a press center that worked primarily for the moderate candidates.

As reporters filed out of the press conference, the large number of d'Aubuisson supporters began muttering, "Gringos go home."

The Central Elections Council suspended vote counting late Tuesday night after Arena charged that the council was proceeding illegally. The party accused Roberto Meza Delgado, the Christian Democratic delegate, of beginning to count votes from the province of San Salvador without permitting Arena officials to challenge the totals.

"We are not going to accept this fraud," Mr. d'Aubuisson said. "If they don't change the style of scrutiny then we will walk out."

Mr. d'Aubuisson could not be reached for comment after the Elections Council decided to proceed with the vote count.